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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PRETOR 04653 091912Z

41
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 013668
O 091835Z OCT 76
FM AMMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5836

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4653

NODIS - CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, RH
SUBJECT: MUGABE-NKOMO STATEMENT

1. HAROLD HAWKINS CALLED AT 17:45 LOCAL TIME TODAY THAT HE PASSED TO SALISBURY MESSAGE YOU HAD SENT VIA BOTHA-FOURIE CONCERNING THE MUGABE-NKOMO STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY. HAWKINS SAID THAT IAN SMITH HAD ALREADY DRAFTED PUBLIC RESPONSE TO STATEMENT WHICH IF RELEASED WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST UNHELPFUL. HE HOPES HE HAS CONVINCED SALISBURY THAT IF ANYTHING IS RELEASED TO PRESS IT WILL BE LIMITD TO OBSERVATION THAT TXT HAS NOT BEEN SEEN AND WHEN AVAILABLE ITS IMPLICATIONS WILL BE CARFULLY EXAMINED. HAWKINS OBSERVD THAT AT TIME WHEN RHODESIA HARDLY NJOYS SURPLUS OF FRIENDS REQUEST SUCH AS YOURS SHOULD BE HEEDED. THIS IS ADVICE HE HAS GIVEN TO SALISBURY AND HE HOPES IT WILL BE ACCEPTD DESPIT STRONG PRESSURE ON SMITH TO SPAK OUT ON MUGABE-NKOMO STATEMENT.

2. HAWKINS CALLED BACK FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN "ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL" IN TONING DOWN SMITH RESPONSE. RESPONSE IS TO BE ISSUED AT 21:00 LOCAL TIME AND WILL CONTAIN THESE POINTS:

A) IMPLICATIONS OF STATEMENT BEING STUDIED.

B) STATEMENT DOESN'T APPEAR TO AUGUR WELL FOR GENEVA MEETING.

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C) APPEARS THAT RUSSIANS MAY BE BUSY IN DAR ES SALAAM AND

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MAPUTO.

D) STATEMENT IS REMINISCENT OF KIND OF ACTION WHICH CAUSED
FAILURE OF EARLIER ATTEMPTS AT NEGOTIATION.

) SMITH HAD WARNED THAT THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE COULD BE
EXPECTED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY OBSERVATION THAT THE FOREGOING RESPONSE
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT SEEM WHAT WAS CALLED FOR, HAWKINS
SAID GAYLORD HAD DESCRIBED INTENSE PRESSURE SMITH WAS UNDER
TO SAY SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST THAT HE WAS STUDYING MUGABE-
NKOMO STATEMENT. FURTHERMORE, HE ADDED, WE ARE NOT SURE
THAT THE BRITISH WILL NOT BE SYMPATHETIC WITH THE STATEMENT.
SALIDBURY, HE NOTED, HAD NOT BEEN IMPRESSED BY ROWLANDS.
BOWDLER

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